

System Design Plan legislation receives unanimous vote in House

The House on Tuesday took a big step toward final passage of a bill establishing a new review process for major expansions and “mission changes” at the state’s public higher education institutions.

On a 96-0 vote, the House passed an amended version of SSB 6355, which requires the HECB to review proposals for major expansions and institutional mission changes, defined as changes in degree levels awarded or an institutional type not currently authorized in statute.

Sometime over the next few days, the bill will have a concurrence vote in the Senate, after which it can be transmitted to the Governor.

SSB 6355 also formally endorses the System Design Plan developed last year by the HECB in collaboration with representatives from the broader higher education community. The new review process for major expansions and mission changes is consistent with recommendations in the System Design Plan, which proposes an “expand on demand” principle that system growth should follow demand.

SSB 6355 also removes restrictions on the number of new applied baccalaureate degrees that can be offered by community and technical colleges. New degrees would still have to be approved by the HECB.

The bill, whose prime sponsor is Sen. Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor, was requested by the HECB as a logical next step following completion of the System Design Plan in December.

Bill makes ‘wise use’ of tax dollars

Rep. Deb Wallace, D-Vancouver, sponsored a companion measure in the House. She told House members Tuesday that SSB 6355 “will maximize the use of every one of our tax dollars” by better coordinating capital facilities expenditures and degree offerings.

“It is important that we overlay these things so we can make wise and informed investments,” Wallace said.

Under the legislation, major expansions and mission change proposals could be offered by the HECB or by local institutions or communities.

The HECB would conduct a needs assessment to determine student and marketplace demand for the expansion or mission change. Among the factors to be considered would be recommendations from the Technology Transformation Task Force pertaining to the use of technology in delivering higher education.

Once the need for the expansion or mission change has been established, the HECB would examine its viability before making a recommendation to the Governor and Legislature.

Capital projects amendment

A floor amendment introduced by Rep. Hans Dunshee, D-Snohomish, and approved by the House requires OFM to convene a work group to rank higher education capital projects from four-year institutions into a single list based on priority.

WASHINGTON
**HIGHER
EDUCATION**
COORDINATING BOARD

**A weekly report on
higher education
during the 2010
Legislative Session**



**Page 2:
Lottery bill remains
alive as session
nears end**

In the news:

Olympian: [Students mourn budget cuts](#)

Yakima Herald: [WA Senate leader suggests income tax referendum](#)

News Tribune: [UWT Institute of Technology hasn't yet realized creators' dreams](#)

**Subscribe or
unsubscribe to the
HECB Legislative
Report at**

<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=HECBL&EGREPORT&A=1>

Lottery bill remains alive as session nears end

A Senate bill that would use state Lottery money to help fund student financial aid programs was placed on the Senate floor calendar by the Rules Committee on Thursday.

Although the bill is long past the normal deadline for advancing legislation out of its house of origin, it is exempt from normal cutoff rules because it could be used to help balance the state budget.

2SSSB 6409 would establish the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account to receive all net revenues from in-state Lottery games that are not dedicated for other uses. Those other uses include debt service on Safeco Field and the Qwest Field and Exhibition Center in Seattle.

Under the legislation any future growth in Lottery proceeds would go the Opportunity Pathways Account to fund financial aid.

Legislature approves honorary degrees for detainees

American students who were sent to internment camps during World War II based on their ancestry will be eligible for honorary college degrees under a bill approved by the Legislature this session.

SB 6467 authorizes state public baccalaureate institutions and community or technical colleges that were in existence in 1942 to award honorary degrees persons who were students at those institutions but did not graduate because they were interned. Honorary degrees may also be requested by relatives of deceased qualified persons.

Approximately 120,000 ethnic Japanese were held in internment camps for the duration of the war. Some Americans of German, Italian and other ancestries were also interned for various periods of time.

Bill giving institutions new purchasing power passes

A cost-saving measure that gives higher education institutions authority to make group purchases of materials, supplies, services and equipment has passed both houses of the Legislature.

HB 2858 would give Washington institutions the same flexibility that colleges in many other states have to create such purchasing consortia. Institutions could then save money as a result of their combined purchasing power.

Bills delivered to Governor

- [ESHB 2921](#) – Making 2010 supplemental operation appropriations.
- [SHB 2998](#) – Suspending certain monetary awards and salary increases.
- [SSB 6382](#) – Reducing the cost of state government operations by restricting compensation.

Bills on Senate Floor

- [SHB 1545](#) – Authorizing the higher education Coordinating Board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
- [SHB 2684](#) – Establishing opportunity centers at community colleges
- [SHB 2852](#) – Concerning college-level online learning by high school students.
- [SHB 2930](#) – Expanding the pool of qualified teachers.
- [HB 2973](#) – Creating resident student classifications for certain members of the military and their spouses and dependents.
- [E2SHB 3141](#) – Redesigning the delivery of temporary assistance to needy families.

Next week's schedule:

- **Thursday March 11:** Last day of regular session.

Bills on House Floor

- [**HB 2858**](#) – Regarding the purchasing authority of institutions of higher education.
- [**SSB 6355**](#) – Expanding the higher education system upon proven demand.
- [**SSB 6357**](#) – Requiring policies for academic recognition of certain life and learning experiences.
- [**SSB 6359**](#) – Promoting efficiencies including institutional coordination and partnerships in the community and technical college system.
- [**ESSB 6444**](#) – Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.
- [**SB 6467**](#) – Authorizing honorary degrees for students who were ordered into internment camps.
- [**E2SSB 6696**](#) – Regarding education reform.
- [**SSB 6706**](#) – Concerning the commercialization of research at state universities.
- [**2SSB 6790**](#) – Providing regional economic development services.
- [**ESSB 6805**](#) – Concerning Washington state economic development commission.

Bills in Senate Rules

- [**SHB 2580**](#) – Concerning secondary career and technical education courses.
- [**HB 2638**](#) – Regarding instructional materials provided in a specialized format.
- [**HB 3068**](#) – Providing access to alternative routes to certification for the recruiting Washington teachers program.

Bills exempt from cutoff

- [**HB 2824**](#) – Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.
- [**HB 2836**](#) – Concerning the capital budget.
- [**SHB 3178**](#) – Creating efficiencies in the use of technology in state government.
- [**2SSB 6409**](#) – Creating the Washington investment in excellence account.